

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

1. ROC EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR HENRY WANG CALLED TO COMPLAIN ON INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT ALLEGED BIAS TOWARD THE ROC REFLECTED IN BICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL EXHIBITION LOCATED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S LOBBY. ACCORDING TO WANG, SUCH BIAS WAS EVIDENT IN THE OMISSION OF A PICTURE OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY CHIANG KAI-SHEK, WHEREAS PHOTOS OF TEHERAN, POTSDAM AND YALTA CONFERENCES WERE ON DISPLAY. WANG ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF PICTURES OF VICTORIOUS PLA TROOPS ON THE MAINLAND AND OF NIXON-MAO 1972 MEETING. WANG SAID THAT COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY PHOTOS DEALING WITH THE ROC IGNORED REALITY OF OUR WARTIME RELATIONSHIP, THE IMPORTANT ROC CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIED CAUSE AND THE EXISTING DIPLOMATIC AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE ASKED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION.

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2. WE TOLD WANG THAT THE EXHIBITION WAS PREPARED BY THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND WAS DEVOID OF POLICY IMPLICATIONS. OBVIOUSLY SPACE WAS LIMITED AND NOT ALL TOPICS COULD BE COVERED. THOSE CHOSEN REPRESENTED THE US VIEW OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE PERIOD COVERED. FROM THE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE, THE VICTORY OF COMMUNIST ARMIES IN CHINA AND THE NIXON VISIT TO THE PRC WERE MAJOR TURNING POINTS IN MODERN AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. WANG WAS ADVISED TO AVOID READING UNWARRANTED POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE INTO THE EXHIBIT AND LEFT WITH NO HOPE THAT CHANGES DESIRED BY THE ROC WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED.

KISSINGER

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